

LEGENDS

Continued from C1

in Bloomington.

Much to his surprise, Dorson was at Indiana, too.

"It was purely coincidental," Brunvand said.

Four years later, he had his doctorate — in folklore. He had subsequently taught in Idaho, then Illinois and, in 1966, was lured by the skiing, fishing and a strong tradition of folklore studies to Utah. He's been in Salt Lake City ever since.

"We just liked it here a lot with four kids, and they grew up here," Brunvand explained.

In the '70s he prepared a handout for his folklore classes at the U., collecting urban legends about hook-hand killers, sewer alligators and fancy cars reeking of death.

"The folder kept expanding," he said. "I started wondering: How many of these stories are there? Can we trace their histories, like fairy tales or old legends?"

That thought and further study resulted in an article for the magazine *Psychology Today* in 1980, and then the book "The Vanishing Hitchhiker."

With his newspaper columns, three published books, one in prepa-

ration and a fifth already in progress, Brunvand sometimes wonders where his side-career will lead.

"New stories are very rare," he said, "and if you have three or four very new stories, that's about par for a year." He still waiting for the 1989 crop.

But Brunvand isn't worried. The legends are always mutating, for one thing — most are actually variations on old tales. He can study groups of stories with themes, or those with morals, or concentrate on the ones that are really jokes. The computer explosion offers new avenues for research: legends are spreading via bulletin boards, computer networks, news groups and electronic mail. And he could always branch out into government and bureaucratic legends — or even into the dark world of espionage, researching the nasty trend of "disinformation."

Or he could make practical use of his first college degree.

"Mom doesn't think I've got a real job anyway," Brunvand said. "I could always go into journalism."

Jan Harold Brunvand has collected a plethora of books and stories relating to the alligator in the sewer — one of his all-time favorite urban legends. His third book, "Curses! Broiled Again" will present a look at some of the other "hot" stories currently making the rounds.

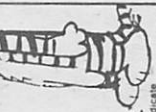


BY BILL WATTERSON

COULD GO
N YOUR
N YOUR
WITH THE
WS SHUT
HE FAN
GHTS ON.

THAT'S WHAT
I WAS DOING
WHEN MOM
THREW ME
OUT HERE.

I WAS
KIDDING.



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BY STAN LEE

AUNT MAY!
BORIS! COME
JOIN US!

WHAT A SURPRISE!
BORIS WAS JUST TELL-
ING ME THE MOST
AMAZING THING!



STAN
LEE
UNIVERSAL
PRESS
SYNDICATE
6-30

BY BILL AMEND

THEN AGAIN,
HOW?

PETER,
OW!

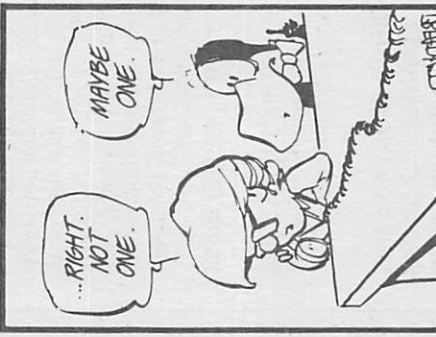


MILQ! IT'S 'PEOPLE' MAGA-
ZINE! THEY WANNA KNOW
MORE ABOUT THAT
RIDICULOUS
CHAPTER
ABOUT ME
AND THE 247
STARLETS
IN CANNIES!
SET THE RECORD
STRAIGHT!!

6-30



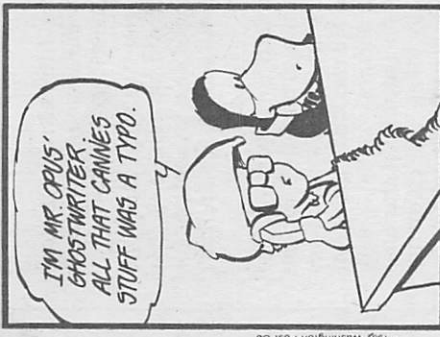
NO.
HE NEVER SEDUCED ANY
247 GORGEOUS STARLETS...
NO. OF COURSE NOT.
RIDICULOUS.
LAUGHABLE...



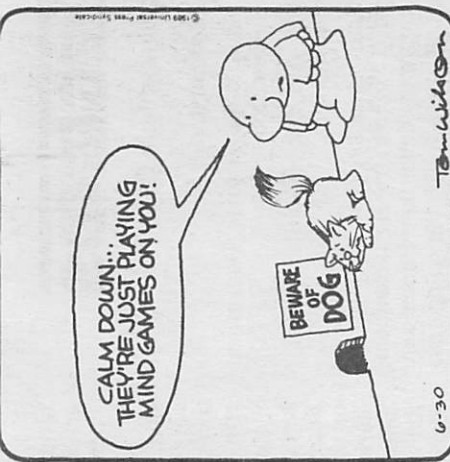
...RIGHT.
NOT
ONE.



MAYBE
ONE.



I'M MR. OPUS'
GHOSTWRITER
ALL THAT CANNIES
STUFF WAS A TYPO.

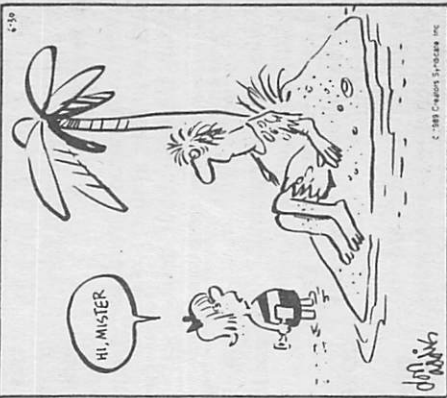


CALM DOWN...
THEY'RE JUST PLAYING
MIND GAMES ON YOU!

6-30

WATTERSON

BENT OFFERINGS BY DON ADDIS



HI, MISTER

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ADDIS

SALLY FORTH

FEELING
BETTER?

IT'S AMAZING WHAT A
SHOWER CAN
DO. SORRY



I'M A NIGHT PERSON,
TED. I CAN'T JUST POP
OUT OF BED AND BE

WELCOME
BACK.

ANYTHING
IMPORTANT HAPPEN
WHILE I WAS GONE?

BY GREG HOWARD

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